

RESOLUTION 21-26

**TO DECLARE SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND
THE BACK FROM THE BRINK CAMPAIGN**

- WHEREAS, former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, speaking at Indiana University in 2019, warned that the danger of nuclear war is at the highest point since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962;¹ and
- WHEREAS, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, who have tracked existential threats to humanity since 1947, have set the Doomsday Clock at 100 seconds to midnight – the closest it has ever been – to warn humanity of the ever-present threat of nuclear war;² and
- WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev declared in 1985 that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,”³ and President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed this in June 2021;⁴ and
- WHEREAS, the Trump Administration’s Nuclear Posture Review envisaged U.S. nuclear weapons use not only for nuclear deterrence but also aggressively in a variety of hypothetical military situations;⁵ and
- WHEREAS, the Trump Administration’s fiscal year 2021 budget included funding for new nuclear weapons programs that would lead to costs of \$634 billion for the period 2021-2030, \$140 billion more than the Congressional Budget Office’s 2019 estimate for the 2019-2028 period;⁶ and
- WHEREAS, the Biden Administration, in its 2022 budget request to Congress, retained funding for these new weapons systems proposed by the Trump Administration;⁷ and
- WHEREAS, the late U.S. Senator Richard Lugar and other former senior officials wrote to Congress in May 2018 stating: “There is no need for such weapons and building them would make the United States less safe. These so-called ‘low-yield’ weapons are a gateway to nuclear catastrophe and should not be pursued;”⁸ and
- WHEREAS, Senator Lugar and co-authors added: “Nuclear war cannot be controlled. Perhaps the biggest fallacy in the whole argument is the mistaken and dangerous belief that a ‘small’ nuclear war would remain small. There is no basis for the dubious theory that, if Russia used a ‘low-yield’ nuclear weapon and the United States responded in kind, the conflict could stay at that level;” and
- WHEREAS, a nuclear war would have catastrophic global effects: even a regional war involving a small percentage of global nuclear arsenals could kill billions through climate effects, and war between the U.S. and Russia could eliminate all human and other complex life on Earth;⁹ and
- WHEREAS, nuclear war may be initiated not by intention, but by accident or miscalculation, as has been determined by scholars and historians especially during times of diplomatic and military crisis;¹⁰ and
- WHEREAS, grassroots initiatives such as the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign proved effective in slowing the nuclear arms race in the 1980s;¹¹ and
- WHEREAS, 86 nations have signed the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and 55 are now parties to it; and under Article VI of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty the United States and other nuclear weapons states are obliged to work toward nuclear disarmament;¹² and
- WHEREAS, Bloomington’s Mayor, John Hamilton, is a member of U.S. Mayors for Peace, which works toward “the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons;”¹³ and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all those elected to representative office in the United States to advocate for the safety of their constituents, in view of both global and local threats to this safety; and the use of nuclear weapons is a threat to the safety of residents of Bloomington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT;

SECTION 1. The City of Bloomington hereby states its support for the global abolition of nuclear weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by enacting the plan called for by the grassroots national movement Back from the Brink. The United States government should:

1. Sign a legally binding No First Use treaty;
2. End the sole, unchecked authority of any United States president to launch a nuclear attack;
3. Take the United States nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
4. Cancel the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
5. Actively pursue a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

SECTION 2. The City of Bloomington hereby confirms that none of its public funds are directly invested in corporations involved in the design or manufacture of nuclear weapons. In addition, the City will endeavor to ensure that no City contract shall include companies involved in the design or manufacture of nuclear weapons or the delivery systems of nuclear weapons, unless no alternative company is available to perform needed services at a reasonable price, and insofar as state law allows.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, to the President of the United States, Indiana's U.S. Senators, and Indiana's Ninth District Congressional Representative.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with IC 36-4-6-14.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 1 day of September, 2021.



JIM SIMS, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:



NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 2 day of September, 2021.



NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 22 day of September, 2021.



JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution is sponsored by Councilmembers Flaherty, Piedmont-Smith and Rollo. It recognizes the substantial danger that nuclear weapons pose both locally and globally. Further, it expresses the City of Bloomington's support for: the global abolition of nuclear weapons; the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and the plan called for in the Back from the Brink Campaign. It confirms that public funds are not directly invested in corporations involved in the design or manufacture of nuclear weapons and that the City will endeavor not to contract with companies involved in the design or manufacture of nuclear weapons or the delivery systems of nuclear weapons, unless no alternative company is available to perform needed services at a reasonable price, and insofar as state law allows. It calls on the United States to take steps to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war.

Note: This resolution was revised after release in the September 1, 2021 Legislative Packet but before introduction at the September 1, 2021 Regular Session to clarify that the City will endeavor not to contract with companies involved in the design or manufacture of nuclear weapons or delivery systems of nuclear weapons.

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Legal, Mayor

REFERENCES

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- [2] Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Doomsday Clock, 01/22/2021 <https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/>
- [3] Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, 11/21/1985, "Joint Soviet-United States Statement on the Summit Meeting in Geneva," <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/joint-soviet-united-states-statement-summit-meeting-geneva>
- [4] Associated Press, Deutsche Welle, 06/16/2021, "Biden and Putin Agree: 'Nuclear War Cannot be Won and must Never be Fought'" <https://www.dw.com/en/biden-and-putin-agree-nuclear-war-cannot-be-won-and-must-never-be-fought/a-57921072>
- [5] J. Daniels, CNBC, 02/02/2018, "Trump's Nuclear Posture Review Shows Greater Willingness to use Nukes First, Say Critics" <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/02/02/trump-nuclear-posture-document-encourages-use-of-nukes-say-critics.html>
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- [7] K. Reif, Arms Control Association, July/August 2021, "Biden Continues Trump Nuclear Funding" <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2021-07/news/biden-continues-trump-nuclear-funding>
- [8] William J. Perry Project, 05/23/2018, "Experts Write Letter to Congress to Stop Low-Yield Nuclear Warheads" <https://webmaster-perry.squarespace.com/notes-from-the-brink/letter-to-congress-stop-low-yield-nuclear-weapons>
- [9] J. McDonald, JSTOR DAILY, 08/26/2017, "The Environmental Impact of Nuclear War" <https://daily.jstor.org/the-environmental-impact-of-nuclear-war/>
- [10] See, e.g., <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat;> [https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2015/04/Close%20Calls%20with%20Nuclear%20Weapons.pdf;](https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2015/04/Close%20Calls%20with%20Nuclear%20Weapons.pdf) [https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/subchron.htm;](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/subchron.htm) [https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128337461;](https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128337461) <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/nukevault/ebb371/>
- [11] L. Wittner, Arms Control Association, "The Nuclear Freeze and Its Impact" https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2010_12/LookingBack
- [12] United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>
- [13] Mayors for Peace, <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/members/area/northamerica.html>